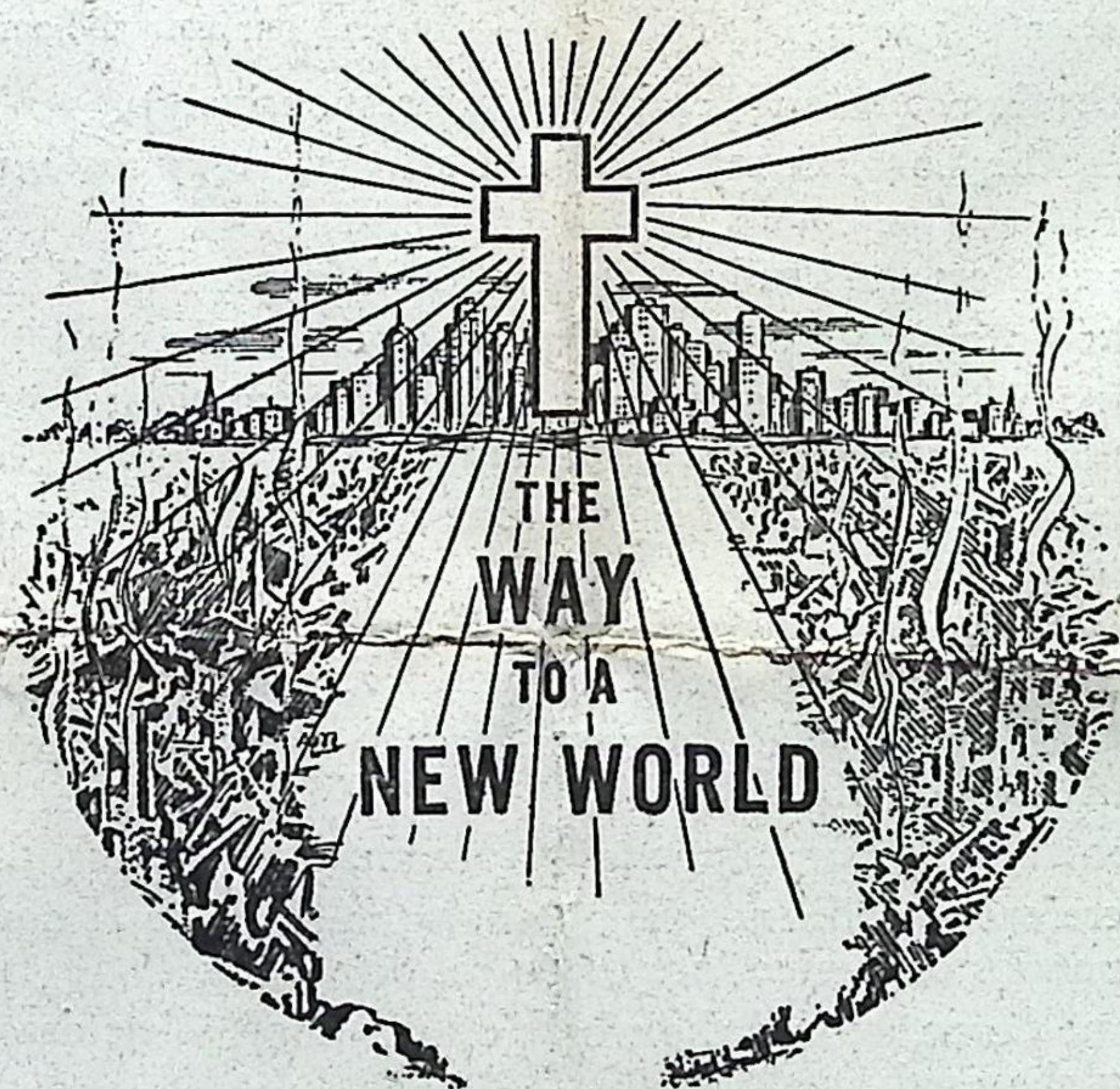


A Service of Worship

for use

By the Churches
At the End of the War



This service is designed for use when the end of hostilities come in either Europe or the Far East

Prepared and issued by the

FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AMERICA

297 Fourth Ave., New York 10, New York

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

ORGAN PRELUDE

DOXOLOGY (Congregation Standing)

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN—"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

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| 1. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home. | 3. Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same. |
| 2. Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure. | 4. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home. Amen. |

SCRIPTURE—Thanksgiving and Praise (Read responsively)

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Congregation: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits;

Leader: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Congregation: Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies;

Leader: The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

Congregation: But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto childrens' children;

Leader: To such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them.

Congregation: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Leader: Therefore we will not fear though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

Congregation: Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations He hath made in the earth.

Leader: He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; He breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; He burneth the chariot in the fire.

Congregation: Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Leader: The Lord of Hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.

In Unison: And blessed be His glorious name forever; and let the whole earth be filled with His glory; Amen and Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING—(In Unison)

Almighty and everlasting God who maketh wars to cease unto the ends of the earth, we praise and magnify thy great mercy, which has brought us to this hour. We bless thy Holy Name that earth, sea, and sky are safe again in Europe; that the guns are silent; and that thou has brought us to this long expected hour. By thy grace keep us humble in victory; forbid that we should harbor hatreds or revenge. May we dedicate all victory to thy glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

possible. They died for us. "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends". To those who have lost loved ones in this war, perhaps the words of Abraham Lincoln, written to a mother whose five sons died in battle, may be of comfort. He said, "I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom".

To all who sorrow this day a greater than Lincoln has said, "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also".

SILENT REMEMBRANCE

DEDICATION

HYMN—"Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult"

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| 1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild restless sea;
Day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
Saying, 'Christian, follow Me' | 3. In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil, and hours of ease,
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures,
Christian, love Me more than these. |
| 2. Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store;
From each idol that would keep us—
Saying, 'Christian, love Me more'. | 4. Jesus calls us; by thy mercies,
Saviour, may we hear thy call—
Give our hearts to thy obedience,
Serve and love thee best of all. Amen. |

MESSAGE—"We Dedicate Ourselves to Thee"

LITANY OF DEDICATION

Leader: To the patient acceptance of all the personal burdens which this war has brought upon us; to the complete sharing of all the sacrifices borne in our common cause; to the healing of all losses and devastation;

Congregation: With God's help, we now dedicate ourselves.

Leader: To the preservation of our dearly bought and cherished freedoms for which such sacrifices of blood have been made;

Congregation: With God's help, we now dedicate ourselves.

Leader: To the seeking and support of all ways and plans for the cooperation of nations now estranged; and of all efforts for the establishing of a world order of justice and peace.

Congregation: With God's help, we do now dedicate ourselves.

Leader: To every struggle for justice both at home and abroad; to every effort seeking to ensure all men their native right to fullness of life;

Congregation: With God's help, we do now dedicate ourselves.

Leader: To the continuance and creation of homes, rich in love, and tenderness, and of a community which shall make every homecoming a glad anticipation;

Congregation: With God's help, we do now dedicate ourselves.

Leader: To such self discipline of our minds through thought and study; to such preparation of our hearts through confession and prayer, that we may take our part in realizing a world of justice and enduring peace;

Congregation: With God's help, we do now dedicate ourselves.

PENITENCE

HYMN—"Lord When We Bend Before Thy Throne" . . . Tune—St. Peter

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| <p>1. Lord, when we bend before thy throne,
And our confessions pour,
Teach us to feel the sins we own,
And hate what we deplore.</p> <p>2. Our broken spirits pitying see
And penitence impart;
Then let a kindling glance from thee
Beam hope upon the heart.</p> | <p>3. When we disclose our wants in prayer
May we our wills resign,
And not a thought our bosom share
That is not wholly thine.</p> <p>4. Let faith each meek petition fill,
And waft it to the skies;
And teach our hearts 'tis goodness still
That grants it or denies. Amen.</p> |
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Leader: As we share this solemn moment, so long sought and prayed for, let us not presume to enter it without confessing our grievous faults for which we have been so tragically chastened. Let us pray God to be merciful to us, sinners; to renew a right spirit within us; and to purge our thoughts and desire of all those evil passions which are seeds of strife. In this realization, let us penitently bow in silence before God.

PERIOD OF SILENCE FOR CONFESSION AND PRAYER

PRAYER OF PENITENCE—(In Unison)

Almighty and most merciful God, our heavenly Father, we confess that we have grievously sinned against thee in thought, and word, and deed. We have come short of thy Glory. We have turned every one of us from thy way of life. Yet do thou, O most merciful Father, hear us when we call upon thee with penitent hearts. Pardon our sins and grant us thy peace. Confirm us in all goodness, that we may serve thee with a quiet mind, and bring us to the life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Edinburgh World Conference 1937

CHOIR RESPONSE—"My Faith Looks Up To Thee"

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| <p>1. My faith looks up to thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly thine.</p> | <p>2. May thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As thou hast died for me,
Oh may my love to thee,
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire. Amen.</p> |
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INTERCESSION

HYMN—"The Prince of Peace His Banner Spreads" . . . Tune—"All Saints"

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| <p>1. The Prince of Peace His banner spreads,
His wayward folk to lead
From war's embattled hates and dread,
Its bulwarked ire and greed.
O marshal us, the sons of sires
Who braved the cannon's roar,
To venture all that peace requires
As they dared death for war.</p> <p>2. Lead on, O Christ! That haunting song
No centuries can dim,
Which long ago the heavenly throng
Sang over Bethlehem.
Cast down our rancor, fear, and pride,
Exalt good will again!
Our worship doth thy name deride,
Bring we not peace to men.</p> | <p>3. Thy pardon, Lord, for war's dark shame,
Its death-strewn, bloody fields!
Yet thanks to thee for souls aflame
Who dared with swords and shields;
O Christ, who died to give men life,
Bring that victorious hour,
When man shall use for peace, not strife,
His valor, skill, and power.</p> <p>4. Cleanse all our hearts from our disgrace
We love not world, but clan!
Make clear our eyes to see our race
One family of man.
Rend thou our little temple veils
That cloak the truth divine,
Until thy mighty word prevails,
That cries, 'All souls are mine' Amen.</p> |
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MESSAGE—"We Remember Before Thee"

LITANY OF INTERCESSION

Leader: Almighty God, who has taught us to make supplications, prayers, and intercessions for all men, we pray this day for all those who are hungry

and without bread; for those made homeless by war's desolation; for separated families; for those whose kindred have been ruthlessly slaughtered; for orphaned children and for all those who have suffered under the heavy scourge of war.

Congregation: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: For the men and women of our armed forces at home and throughout the world; for the sick and wounded in the hospitals; for doctors, nurses and all who minister to the sick and suffering; and for all those who are prisoners of war.

Congregation: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: For our beloved nation and all those whom we have placed in public authority; for our homes that they may be Christian; for all schools and the teachers of our children; and for all our American institutions and organizations that serve our country's welfare;

Congregation: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: For the church of Jesus Christ our Lord throughout the world; for all ministers who serve in his name; for missionaries at home and abroad; for all chaplains in the armed forces; for those who have suffered for their Christian faith;

Congregation: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Leader: For the uprooting of all causes of war; for the ending of prejudices of race and nation; for the confounding of all those who delight in war and the strengthening of all peace makers;

Congregation: Hear us and use us, good Lord.

Leader: For the triumph of justice in every human relationship; for the enduring liberation of the oppressed and for the lasting freedom of all thy children;

Congregation: Hear us and use us, good Lord.

Leader: For the coming of that day when all men shall know the Lord and the realms of this world shall become the realm of Jesus Christ; for the coming of the time when nation shall not lift up sword against nation nor learn war any more;

Congregation: Hear us and use us, good Lord.

Leader: O merciful Father, we beseech thee so to send forth thy spirit into thy world that all leaders of men everywhere, the rulers and spokesmen of the nations, may be instructed in the ways of peace, kept clean of pride and evil ambitions and so guided in all their doings that they may make thy ways known upon the earth, thy saving health among all nations.

PRAYER RESPONSE—Sung by the Congregation

Our father's God, to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our King. Amen.

REMEMBRANCE

Leader: We now remember in pride, gratitude, love, sorrow and tenderness, the innumerable company of those whose courage and sacrifice have made this hour

possible. They died for us. "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends". To those who have lost loved ones in this war, perhaps the words of Abraham Lincoln, written to a mother whose five sons died in battle, may be of comfort. He said, "I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom".

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Of the vain world's golden store;
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In Unison: O Lord, hear these our high resolves; and by the guidance of thy spirit and the continuance of thy watchful care, help us to be true to these commitments which we have now made on this solemn occasion.

LEADER:

"God of humanity, hear our vow—

We who dwell in a world of hate:

War we have served, how long! but now

Our lives to peace we dedicate.

By the graves of our dead we mutely stand,

In tears renew our consecration:

We will strive and pray till every land

Becomes a part of a new world Nation!"

Thomas Curtis Clark

PRAYER: (In Unison)

Almighty God, whose purposes in man are saved and made victorious through pain, we pray thee to join us in mind and heart with all those who have endured battle for our cause. In thy gracious love and providence bless our sons and daughters in the armed forces of the Pacific. May peace speedily come there also. Do thou call upon us continually to keep pure the aims for which we ask our sons and daughters to fight, that in no vain or selfish quarrel their pain and sacrifice may be spent. Grant that we here at home may not shrink from the fellowship of suffering with those who yet carry our destiny into battle. Let us not lightly accept what they shall endure for us all. We pray that through death or life, through things present and things to come, thou wilt keep us with them united in the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

HYMN—"Rise Up O World"

Tune—Finlandia

Rise up, O world, the light is on the hill;

Face valiantly the work that lies ahead;

Thine is the task to do thy Master's will;

To this great day His mighty hand has led;

God's bugles blow, the dawn of light is here;

Stand on thy feet and put away thy fear!

Have zeal, O world, the new dawn rises high

From out the mists of darkness and of war;

The sun of hope is riding in the sky,

The sound of death and weeping is no more.

Stand forth, march on, the far peaks are agleam.

It is the dawn of an Immortal Dream!

Have hope, O world, 'tis thine to seek and find

The everlasting secret of the skies;

That human hearts can still be good and kind!

The flag of Faith forever bravely flies

Above the cross-crowned hill of Calvary

Still points the way to man's great Destiny!

Have faith, O world, that all is well and good!

March forward to this brave, new dawn of hope;

Send forth the bugle call of brotherhood,

Where men in terror blindly reach and grope.

It is the Christian Day, let anthems ring;

Let every Christian heart in glory sing!

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

(Following the benediction the congregation will retire quietly from the sanctuary)